

Devils Swamp Lake Sites, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Residents of Alsen, Louisiana, a low-income, predominantly African-American community next to chemical plants and waste disposal facilities, began reporting health problems and environmental concerns to the Louisiana Department of Health in the early 1970s. Superfund sites, waste landfills and industrial plants are located close to this community.

The Devil's Swamp Lake Superfund Site is currently under investigation and no longer is receiving the discharge of contaminants from the former Rollins Environmental Services, a large hazardous waste disposal facility built in the 1970s. In 1991 the Louisiana House of Representatives requested EPA to investigate. With the concurrence of the Louisiana State governor, the site was proposed to the National Priorities List on March 8, 2004.

A fish consumption advisory is in place and was issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH). EPA is currently working with the LDEQ, LDHH and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to reassess and update the current fish advisory for residents of Louisiana using Devil's Swamp.

A Technical Assistance Grant, funded by EPA, helps the community better understand technical information from legacy contaminants at this Superfund Site.

Contaminants are no longer being released to the Devil's swamp area. The State of Louisiana and EPA continue to assess, through the Superfund Program, public water wells used as a drinking water supply and water quality.

We continue to work with the Alsen Community and coordinated with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, the current owners of the former facility, development of a Scholarship for local residents to attend the Baton Rouge Community College in 2014.